

**REMARKS**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2004 the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-12 and the indication of allowability in claims 16-18.

Claim 9 was objected to as being in improper form. Applicants have rewritten claim 9 to overcome this objection and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Janning et al. Claims 14-15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Janning. However, the Office Action goes on to note that claims 16-18 were merely objected to and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicants disagree with the rejections over Janning, Applicants have rewritten claims 16, 17, and 18 to include the subject matter of claim 13. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to depend from newly rewritten claim 16. In addition, claim 19 have been amended to depend from newly rewritten claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 14-19 should now be in allowable condition.

New dependent claims 20-22 depend from claim 17 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. New dependent claims 23-25 depend from claim 18 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 13 has been canceled.

D

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

Luc WUIDART and Jean-Pierre ENGUEMENT

By: 

James H. Morris, Reg. No. 34,681  
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.  
600 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2211  
Telephone: (617) 720-3500

Docket No. S1022.80394US00

Date: July 16, 2004

x08/06/04x

1)